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excuse for ignorance of the content and spirit of the sources of the Hexateuch is now removed.

The text of D is not included, because the bulk of it is found in continuous form in the book of Deuteronomy. J² is differentiated from J¹ by the use of smaller type. Editorial material within each document is marked in the same way. P is not subdivided into P^a, P^b, and P^c, but P^H is clearly indicated. Where there is serious division of opinion with reference to the analysis, brief footnotes cite the chief writers in support of the varying views. The text is organized in logical paragraphs, numbered consecutively throughout each document, and in connection with each paragraph heading the corresponding paragraph numbers from the other documents are listed.

The book does not claim any degree of originality for its subject-matter, but only for its arrangement. It reveals a vast amount of labor in checking up the views of many authorities, and it evidences sound caution in not departing too widely from the standard writers. Its aim is to give the situation regarding Hexateuchal criticism as it is generally accepted at the present time, not to indicate the lines along which Hexateuchal investigation is likely to run in the immediate future. The plan was well conceived and has been excellently executed. The proofreading is almost perfect. Procksch is everywhere robbed of his first *c* and Meissner is given but one *s* (pp. 158 f.). It is a sign of encouragement when the publishing house of a great church like the Methodist Episcopal sends forth such frankly modern works as this and the series of Introductions by Eiselen. May other church publishers hasten to follow.

J. M. P. S.

LUTZ, HENRY FREDERICK. *Early Babylonian Letters from Larsa*. [Yale Oriental Series. Babylonian Texts, Vol. II.] New Haven: Yale University Press, 1917. xii+41 pages and 57 plates. \$5.00.

The second volume of the Yale Oriental Series, consisting of *Early Babylonian Letters from Larsa*, puts one hundred and fifty-two new texts at the disposal of scholars. The volume is the work of H. F. Lutz, Ph.D., a former pupil of Professor Clay.

Aside from the texts the book comprises a rendering of thirty-three of the texts, with an Introduction of six pages, lists of personal and divine names, and geographical references. This is primarily a text volume. It is to be much regretted that the original plan of the series, that, namely, of accompanying all texts by at least a tentative interpretation, could not be carried out in this case. This applies with peculiar force to letter texts, and is the more to be deplored since the editor in the sample translations seems to have sensed the original with a fair degree of success in this most difficult material.

His chief failure appears to be in XVIII, where the mutilated line (12) has misled him. I would suggest *li-ik-ṭa-i-iš-šu* and render lines 11 ff., "I went to him and spoke as follows: let be given him as Abu-wakar has instructed me, 'give a female slave.' (He answered me), he shall pay me, had I not come to a slave owner? I will give a female slave to no one. Send over thy messenger and let him give away a female slave" (i.e., see if he will do so). XXII, lines 29-21, might be rendered: "The oxen, to the city I have designated, they shall remove."

In the proofreading "by" in the heading of XXIII has apparently fallen out and in I, line 13 (translation), the order of words is confused.

The first appearance of the name *a-ba-ra-ḥa-am* in XXVIII (No. 15), line 12, (cf. Plate LVI) is of considerable importance and the discussion of its relation to

"Abram" and "Abraham" (pp. 5-7) offers a most suggestive solution of that problem by regarding these various forms as dialectical variations of an original west-Semitic "Ab-ra-ham," which became "Abram" by migration to Babylonia and subsequently returned to the West as "Abraham."

The content of the texts translated deals principally with business relations, but is not without religious interest (cf. XXXI). The texts on the whole are very well preserved and well copied. Their complete elucidation should be well worth the effort.

L. W.

KRAELING, EMIL G. H. *Aram and Israel or The Aramaeans in Syria and Mesopotamia*. New York: Columbia University Press, 1918. xvi+155 pages. \$1.50.

To the average reader of the Bible the terms "Aram" and "Aramaean" mean little or nothing. Of course he knows that the language of Jesus was the Aramaic, which sometime somehow had displaced the Hebrew tongue in Palestine. Perhaps he will also remember that portions of the Old Testament were written in the Aramaic, but of the people from whom the Jews borrowed this language he will probably profess to know nothing. And yet this apparent dearth of knowledge is due to the fact that our English versions of the Bible render the terms which should appear as "Aram" and "Aramaean" by "Syria" and "Syrians." The "wars with Syria," which form the subject of so many chapters of the historical books of the Old Testament, were wars which the Israelites fought with their first cousins, the Aramaeans.

But with the Old Testament as practically our only source of information the history of these people remained obscure and our estimate of them was decidedly unfavorable. Now, however, numerous Assyrian inscriptions and an increasing number of documents from the Aramaeans themselves enable us, if not to write an adequate history, at least to sketch the main outlines of the story of their development. As our author puts it: "Of the Aramaeans we know just enough to give an impressionistic design of who they were and what befell them" (p. 2).

Dr. Kraeling's "impressionistic design" is always interesting, readable, and scientific. The sources are never left out of consideration. Only in the case of some of the etymologies offered or accepted does the reviewer find himself at variance with the writer. But these are never put forward without proper caution, and in any case they have little bearing upon the main theme.

The book deserves a wide reading. Its simple and easy style makes it stand out in striking contrast to so much of the recent literature on topics connected with the history of the ancient world. Nor does one feel that the author has any ax to grind. It is a book that will interest all students of the Old Testament, and it ought to entice many of these to make more frequent excursions into the larger history of the ancient Near East.

D. D. L.